

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A drywall joint construction consisting essentially of:

a first drywall board having a first lengthwise edge and an outwardly-facing first planar surface;

a second drywall board having a second lengthwise edge and an outwardly-facing second planar surface, the second drywall board being positioned adjacent the first drywall board such that the first and second lengthwise edges are brought into substantially abutting contact so as to form a lengthwise crack between the first and second planar surfaces, a center-line surface of the joint construction being defined as the outwardly-facing surface directly over the crack and exposed for surface treatment; and

a joint finishing system installed within the crack to complete the drywall joint construction, the system including a flexible layer forming the center-line surface, the flexible layer being a ~~material selected from the group consisting of tape and caulk.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The construction of claim 1 wherein:

the first lengthwise edge is substantially perpendicular to the first planar surface and the second lengthwise edge is substantially perpendicular to the second planar surface such that the crack is configured as an outwardly-opening slit; and

the joint finishing system comprises a caulk forming the flexible layer and filling the slit so as to flush the joint finishing system with the first and second planar surfaces.

11. (previously presented) The construction of claim 10 wherein the caulk comprises a non-shrinking formulation.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A drywall joint construction consisting essentially of:

a first drywall board having a first lengthwise edge and an outwardly-facing first planar surface, the first lengthwise edge being substantially perpendicular to the first planar surface;

a second drywall board having a second lengthwise edge and an outwardly-facing second planar surface, the second lengthwise edge being substantially perpendicular to the second planar surface, the second drywall board being positioned adjacent the first drywall board such that the first and second lengthwise edges are brought into substantially abutting contact so as to form a lengthwise crack between the first and second planar surfaces configured as an outwardly-opening slit, a center-line surface of the joint construction being defined as the outwardly-facing surface directly over the slit and exposed for surface treatment; and

a caulk filling the slit so as to form the center-line surface and flush the joint construction with the first and second planar surfaces.

17. (previously presented) A method of forming a drywall joint consisting essentially of the steps of:

positioning a first drywall board having a first lengthwise edge and an outwardly-facing first planar surface against a support structure;

positioning a second drywall board having a second lengthwise edge and an outwardly-facing second planar surface against the support structure such that the second drywall board is adjacent the first drywall board and the first and second lengthwise edges are brought into substantially abutting contact so as to form a lengthwise crack between the first and second planar surfaces, a center-line surface of the drywall joint being defined as the outwardly-facing surface directly over the crack and exposed for surface treatment; and

filling the crack with a caulk so as to form the center-line surface and to flush the drywall joint with the first and second planar surfaces.

18. (canceled)

19. (canceled)